



PATENT

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IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF A GENE WHICH PROTECTS
CELLS FROM PROGRAMMED CELL DEATH AND USES THEREFOR

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Cross Reference To Related Applications

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N. 09/234,186, filed on January 20, 1999, ^{now us Pat. No. 6,312,947} which in turn is a divisional of U.S.S.N. 08/801,248, filed on February 19, 1997, now abandoned, which in turn is a continuation of U.S.S.N. 08/288,295, filed on August 10, 1994, now abandoned, which in turn is a divisional of U.S.S.N. 07/927,681, filed on August 10, 1992, now abandoned, and, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N. 07/898,933, filed on June 12, 1992, now abandoned, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Government Funding

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Background of the Invention

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Cell death is a fundamental aspect of animal development. A considerable proportion of the cells that are generated die during the normal development of both vertebrates (Glucksmann, Biol. Rev. Cambridge Philos. Soc. 26:59-86 (1951)) and invertebrates (Truman and Schwartz, Ann. Rev. Neurosci. 7:171-188 (1984)). Cell death plays a role in morphogenesis (e.g., of the eye, secondary palate, heart, nervous system and limbs in vertebrate embryos), metamorphosis (e.g., in moths and other insects), and tissue homeostasis (e.g., of epithelial linings and the thymus), as well as in neuron selection during the establishment of synaptic connections and in sexual dimorphism (reviewed by Ellis et al., Ann. Rev. Cell Biol. 7:663-698 (1991)). Cell

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